

Individuals were noted carrying mud. That the birds were breeding was confirmed by Mr. S. R. White, of Morawa.

A third group nesting under shop verandahs was located at Northampton on September 18, 1948 by several members of the R.A.O.U.

These are the only occasions upon which I have found Tree Martins nesting in wooden buildings.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Caron.

**A Record of the Leopard Seal in Western Australia.**—The Leopard Seal (*Hydrurga leptonyx*) is an occasional wanderer to southern Australian seas from the Antarctic, but though many records have been reported from the south-east of the continent, there has been none so far from Western Australia. The first undoubted observation of an individual of this species locally was recently reported to Mr. G. W. Rayner of the C.S.I.R., and myself by Mr. D. S. Hunt of Hunt's Canning Company. Mr. Hunt said that on October 12, 1948, he was patrolling the south coast beaches in his Moth aeroplane, searching for salmon shoals. When flying over Tooregullup Beach, about one mile south of the Gairdner River bar (just north of Doubtful Island Bay), he saw a group of people tugging at the tail of a curious seal-like animal. He circled around and made a landing on the beach. The persons there called the animal a leopard seal and said they had come on it lying on the beach, clear of the water. It slowly moved off as they approached and they endeavoured to hold it by grasping its tail. However the creature escaped and swam away vigorously. It made no attempt to bite at its would-be captors.

Mr. Hunt describes the animal as being about 11 feet in length, of a brownish-grey colour, dappled on the sides of the body with darker spots. It looked like a seal but appeared thinner and longer. The head was much bigger than a seal's and seemed disproportionately large compared with the size of the body. The two front flippers also seemed small for the body size. "A curious aspect of the animal was that its tail appeared to be not unlike that of a platypus." The teeth were large and formidable. Mr. Hunt at once recognised the photograph in Fig. 14 of *The Wild Animals of Australasia*, by A. S. Le Souef and H. Burrell, as portraying the creature.

—D. L. SERVENTY, Perth.

**A Bull-ant Combat.**—On June 19, 1948 about 5 p.m., while taking a bush walk I came on several nests of the bull-ant, known under a variety of local names such as sergeant ant, soldier ant, bulldog, inch ant and jumping ant (*Myrmeciu vindex*). They were a short distance apart and in most cases the ants were out foraging in the pleasant evening sunshine. At one nest I noticed two ants, one of which seemed to be trying to drag the other with it, over leaves and sticks, up a small prickly bush and down again to the